

Philosophy 4: Introduction to Ethics

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Office hours: W 2:30-4:30 and by appointment

I. Required Reading: (1) J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, (2) Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and (3) Course reader. [(1) and (2) are available at the bookstore whereas (3) is available at Grafikart, 6550 Pardall Rd, Isla Vista, CA 93117; 805 968-3575.]

II. Topics: This course is designed, primarily, as an introduction to normative ethics and we will spend most of our time discussing two of the three major traditions in ethical theory – Consequentialist and Kantian Ethics. But we will also spend some time discussing “applied” ethical questions concerning the morality of abortion, global inequality and war; and questions about moral motivation and the kinds of reasons ethical theories can provide us for acting in one way rather than another. An effort will be made to read primary (historical) texts, and to criticize the views of some authors in light of the views of others.

III. Course Requirements: Students must (1) write two short papers (4-5 pages), (2) complete a midterm exam on various ethical concepts and distinctions, and (3) complete a substantive final exam on the theories and positions discussed in class. Moreover, section attendance is mandatory – failure to attend can adversely affect your grade. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Do not use anything from the web when you are writing your papers. If you must do so (and I urge you not to) you MUST quote and cite everything you use. IF YOU USE SOMETHING FROM THE WEB AND DO NOT CITE IT, THAT IS PLAGIARISM. And if you plagiarize, you **will fail** the class and you may also be expelled from the university.

IV. Tentative Schedule

Handouts will be made available on all of the topics we will discuss. You should print out the relevant handout *before* each lecture. Handouts can be downloaded by clicking on the link to the (yet to be built) PHIL 4 website from:

<http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/courses/websites-syllabi.html>

Topic 1: Abortion

Reading: J. J. Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion.”

Topic 2: War and International Violence

Reading: Excerpts from various works collected as “War, Terrorism, and Torture,” in Mark Timmons (ed.), *Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader*, (2007), pp. 390-443.

1st Paper Assigned

Topic 3: Mill’s Utilitarianism, Part I

Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp.1-34.

1st Paper Due

Topic 4: Mill’s Utilitarianism, Part II

Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 35-71.

Topic 5: Critiques of Utilitarianism

Readings: (1) Bernard Williams, "Consequentialism and Integrity," and (2) Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine."

Study sheet for prelim distributed

Topic 6: Kantian Ethics, Part I

Reading: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 3-21.

Prelim or Midterm Exam

Topic 7: Kantian Ethics, Part II

Reading: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 22-62.

2nd Paper Assigned

Topic 8: Critiques of Kantian Ethics

Reading: Phillipa Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives."

Second Assignment Due

Topic 9: Economic Justice

Reading: Excerpts from various works collected as "World Hunger and Poverty," in Mark Timmons (ed.), *Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader*, (2007), pp. 444-473.

Final Exam: Thursday, December 11th 4-7PM. (In this room.)